FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes continued to "aimlessly" bomb Iranian residential areas over the weekend including the cities of Mahabad, Kuhdasht, Pol-e Dokhtar, Saqqez, Eslamabad-e Gharb, and Baneh, Tehran radio and IRNA reported. In addition to 24 February missile attacks on Khorramabad and Borujerd, two Iraqi missiles were also fired on the town of Hoveyzeh on 26 February, IRNA added. In retaliation, Iranian planes bombed administrative, military, and economic targets including the southeastern town of Al-'Amarah, the northeastern town of Rawanduz, 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali ash-Sharqi near the Basra-Baghdad highway, and Ba'qubah, located 35 km from Baghdad, IRNA announced.

Iranian military communiques broadcast by Tehran radio 24-26 February continued to provide details of the "victorious" Khaybar operations carried out along several axes in the Basra and Al-'Amarah Provinces in Iraq and along the Tigris River. In addition to capturing an important supply bridge and an area containing oil deposits, Iranian forces "crushed" five Iraqi counterattacks and downed several helicopters and planes. The Iraqi casualty figure since the start of the Khaybar operations now stands at more than 7,000 men killed and 812 POW's lost, according to one communique. A 7-km area along the Tigris near the strategic Basra-Al-'Amarah route has been "cleared" and Iranian Forces managed to "destroy" a large section of the 19th Iraqi Infantry Division as well as two battalions in the Al-'Uzayr region of Al-'Amarah Province, IRNA and Tehran radio reported respectively. Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali also continued to come under long-range Iranian artillery fire, Tehran radio noted. Among the POW's being transferred from the battlefronts were soldiers from Egypt, Sudan, and Morocco who had been "forced" to fight for the Iraqi regime, Tehran radio's Arabic service announced.

In another development, President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a 24 February sermon reported by Tehran radio, warned that if the United States should undertake "acts of adventurism" to make up for its "disgrace" in Lebanon or to save the Iraqi regime, Iran "would destroy all U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf." Khamene'i said that "as long as our ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz we will not do anything to anybody"; however, should U.S. warships and their supporters "wish to do anything in the Strait of Hormuz, their fate would decisively be worse than their fate in Lebanon." Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a 26 February speech carried by the radio, warned the USSR that if it really wants neighborly relations with Iran, it must stop providing Iraq with missiles to be used against Iranian cities.

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Fighting continued in and around Beirut over the weekend despite Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan's announcement that a cease-fire would take effect on 24 February, Beirut radio reported. Although the radio said Lebanese Army units took over installations evacuated by the Marines, the Voice of Lebanon cited an AFP report that Amal Movement gunmen occupied Marine installations at Beirut airport.

Jerusalem radio said an IDF spokesman "categorically denied" that five Israeli soldiers were killed in a 24 February ambush near Sidon. Israeli and Lebanese media provided contrasting accounts of a clash the same day between the IDF and Lebanese villagers in Ma'rakah near Tyre. While IDF sources cited by Jerusalem radio said two villagers were "slightly injured" when an IDF patrol fired warning shots to deter stone-throwers, Amal leader Nabih Birri said in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the Israelis "stormed" the village, killing 3 people and wounding 23 others.

Political Situation — Although Prince Bandar told SPA on 24 February that a Syrian-Lebanese "accord" would be announced simultaneously that evening in Damascus and Beirut, monitored Syrian and Lebanese media did not mention that any agreement had been reached. Beirut radio subsequently reported that Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri would return to Beirut on 27 February to reveal the outcome of the Saudi working team's discussions with Syrian officials. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Elie Salim asked his French counterpart Claude Cheysson to hold contacts with the Soviet Union concerning the latter's amendments to the French draft UN resolution on UN forces for Lebanon. The Soviet amendments would "limit the effectiveness" of UN forces in Lebanon, the radio noted.

Regarding the 17 May agreement, a "responsible" source cited by Beirut radio denied local press reports that President Amin al-Jumayyil has signed a letter authorizing the Chamber of Deputies to reconsider the agreement with Israel. Meanwhile, at a meeting chaired by Pierre al-Jumayyil, the Phalange Party Political Bureau affirmed its confidence in the president and decided to support him in any course he takes, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Nevertheless, Radio Free Lebanon said the Phalangist leaders urged the government to obtain "additional basic guarantees" as part of any peace plan it agrees to.

After meeting with President al-Jumayyil, former President Camille Sham'un stressed that Lebanon should abrogate the agreement with Israel only if Syria provides a guaranteed quid pro quo to withdraw from all Lebanese territory, the radio reported. Earlier, in a report on Lebanon's demands as conveyed through the Saudi mediators, the radio said these include guaranteed Syrian and Israeli withdrawals, the curbing of the opposition, withdrawal of Palestinian gunmen, safeguarding of the Lebanese Army's unity, acceptance of the previous security plan, linking of Zahlah with other Christian areas, guaranteed security for the Christians, and political negotiations between Syria and Lebanon.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, accompanied by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, arrived in Amman on 26 February to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue with King Husayn, Amman and Baghdad Voice of PLO radios reported respectively. 'Arafat expressed gratitude to the king for his "good words" during the Palestinian forces' siege in Lebanon and added that the PLO has emerged from Tripoli "stronger and more experienced," Amman radio said. The first meeting between the two delegations took place in an atmosphere of "complete openness and frankness." Viewpoints were exchanged in a "clear and precise" manner regarding the bases on which Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation will be established and current developments in the Arab situation were reviewed, Amman radio added.

Earlier, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir, who had arrived in Amman with 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan on 24 February, cautioned against expecting any breakthrough in a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question, Amman's *JORDAN TIMES* reported. Although this is a year of "political stalemate," it is still important that Jordan and the PLO find a common approach as a basis for joint political moves especially directed toward Europe and the Soviet Union, Al-Wazir added.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the PFLP-General command, in a statement reported by Damascus television, denounced the resumption of talks with Jordan and affirmed that the Palestinian "masses" will not be bound by any results achieved through them. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) also condemned 'Arafat's visit, asserting that his talks with Jordanian officials will give King Husayn a "new card" in an attempt to bypass the PLO and undermine Palestinian representation, Damascus television added.

Syria

Although Syria has defeated the United States in the "battle of arm-twisting" in Lebanon, it realizes that the United States may transfer its attention to Jordan in order to exert pressure to secure a "quick achievement in the negotiations among Husayn, 'Arafat, and Israel," *TISHRIN* stated in a 25 February editorial reviewed by Damascus radio. However, Syria "imposed the Arab nation's will in Lebanon," and it will be able to do likewise in Jordan, *TISHRIN* contended.

Egypt

The international community must stop the supply of destructive weapons and equipment to the Gulf Area, thereby making Iran respond to Iraq's acceptance of "unconditionally ending" the war and beginning negotiations to settle disputed issues peacefully, President Husni Mubarak said in a 25 February speech carried by MENA. Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the president stated that Egypt will not accept any "actual or legal" partition of Lebanon nor will it accept its "fragmentation" into small, weak entities "lacking subsistence for survival."

In a separate development, "large" student demonstrations broke out in Cairo on 26 February for the first time since Mubarak assumed power, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. The protestors demanded more democracy in the country and criticized the normalization of relations with Israel, the radio added.

Iran

Ten high-ranking members of the secret military wing of the defunct Tudeh Party, including Captain Bahram 'Afzali, were executed on 25 February, IRNA reported citing a communique released by the Prosecutor's Office. A total of 101 Tudeh members had been put on trial for attempting to overthrow the government, spying, and violating a ban against military personnel belonging to political parties.

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Nomination Papers Filed for Local Elections

BK251159 Dhaka BSS in English 1143 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 25 (BSS) — Over twenty-one hundred persons have filed nomination papers yesterday for the election of chairmen of 410 upazila (sub-district), according to information reaching here from all over Bangladesh.

Reports from the remaining 50 upazilas are yet to reach the election commission office here. About forty million people are expected to particiapte in the upazila election scheduled to be held on March 24.

Nominations were submitted amidst threats by some political parties not to allow the people to submit the papers. A number of people were injured and host of others were injured in clashes with the law enforcing agency in various parts of the country while attempting to disrupt submission of nomination papers.

The nomination papers are being scrutinised today and the last date of withdrawal has been set on March 4.

Upazila are the administrative units formed by the government of General Ershad to take the official machinery nearer to the people.

Upazila polls is the third in a series of elections being held in Bangladesh to put the country back on a democratic road as promised by General Ershad.

The village-level union council election took place in last December, while the elections to country's 77 municipalities were held last this month. [as received]

Delhi Reports Disturbances

BK261026 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, there have been demonstrations in about 14 district towns against the controversial local council elections to be held on the 24th of next month. In Sylhet, demonstrators set fire to two government offices. The Bangladesh Interior Ministry said over 350 people, including 87 students, were arrested. Several hundred people, including policemen, were injured in clashes.

In Chittagong also clashes were reported.

The situation in Dhaka is stated to be normal.

AFP: USSR's Ustinov To Visit From 5 March

BK251334 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 25 (AFP) — Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov will pay a six-day official visit to India beginning March 5, an official announcement said here today.

Mr. Ustinov was originally to undertake an Indian tour on February 6 but had to postpone it abruptly in view of the ill health of Soviet President Yuriy Andropov, who died three days later.

He will meet with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman and other Indian Government leaders to discuss the situation in the region and other parts of the world as well as the two countries' bilateral ties. The Soviet defence minister is also slated to tour various Indian defence establishments during the visit.

PRC Delegation to Asian Forum Departs 24 Feb

BK241415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Chinese delegation [led by Huang Hua] to the just-concluded 1st Conference of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has left New Delhi this morning. During its stay in the capital, it held discussions with the Indian delegation on matters of mutual interests. Talking to newsmen, the secretary general of the forum, Mr Satpal Mittal, said both the sides have agreed to promote bilateral exchanges of parliamentarians and social scientists to increase cooperation in the field of family planning and biomedical research.

Venkataraman Comments on Pakistan, U.S. Navy

BK261400 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said that India is fully prepared to meet any eventuality. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta he said there had been press reports of Pakistan making the nuclear bomb. Whatever Pakistan or other countries do, we must be ready for any situation, he added.

About reports on the movement of U.S. fleet to Chittagong in Bangladesh, he said superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean is causing tension and is of great concern to us.

Denies Border Deployment

BK260541 Hong Kong AFP in English 0527 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26 (AFP) — Indian Federal Defence Minister R. Venkataraman today denied that India was massing troops on the Indo-Pakistan border. "We have no offensive policy," he said in the eastern city of Calcutta in reaction to Pakistani charges that India was gathering troops on the border. However he said that the Indian Armed Forces were "fully prepared" to meet any eventuality. He did not elaborate.

Pakistan Contracts for Air-to-air Missiles

BK261022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have signed a multimillion dollar contract with the United States for the purchase of advanced, medium-range air-to-air missiles. Reporting this, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA says that these are to be fitted in the F-16 fighter aircraft being acquired by Pakistan from America. The missiles can be fired from beyond the visual range of 30 km with total precision.

Defense experts feel that this will mark the induction of a very high level of sophisticated military technology into the region.

MP Says Pakistani Nuclear Testing 'Likely'

BK241406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In upper house of parliament today, some issues of public importance were raised through special mention.

Mr Shivchandra Jha, a Janata Party member, urged the prime minister to inform the house on the steps that the government had taken to protect the country's borders in view of the reported move by Pakistan to explode a nuclear bomb. The member said: According toreports, Pakistan is likely to test its nuclear device in the near future.

Mr A.P. Chakroberty, a forward block member, urged the government to impress upon the British Government to ban the controversial TV film on [freedom fighter] Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Rao Tells of 'Shock' Over British TV Program

BK270935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The external affairs minister has said that India has conveyed its shock and indignation over a British television program to the concerned authority. He was replying to a calling attention notice moved by Mr Abdul Rashid Kabuli, National Conference, and others in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr Narasimha Rado said some leaders of the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front were allowed to express their fanatical views through a commercially sponsored program on the British television last Tuesday. They not only described the Indian leaders in a shameful language but one of them also threatened to avenge the execution of Maqbool Butt. The Indian high commissioner in London has since then taken up the matter with the British foreign minister and the minister of state in the Home Office.

Overseas Missions on 'Maximum Alert'

BK271409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Indian missions abroad have been put on maximum alert after the kidnapping and murder of the Indian diplomat, Mr Mhatre, in Britain. This was stated by the external affairs minister in the lower house of parliament today. Missions in sensitive areas have been instructed to take the help of local authorities for their security.

Mr Narasimha Rao said some other security measures have been taken, but did not disclose the details. He was replying to a call attention notice moved by Mr Abdul Rashid Kabuli, National Conference, and four others on a recent television program hostile to India.

Security Tightened in Anticipation of Strike

BK261601 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] The Delhi administration has made elaborate arrangements to ensure that normal life is not disrupted during the proposed bundh [strike] tomorrow. Steps have been taken to ensure that transport and other essential services function normally. Security measures have also been tightened.

Delhi Border Sealed

BK260724 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 26 Feb 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26 (AFP) — Federal police have sealed the border of the Indian capital to prevent entry of Sikh terrorists amidst reports that a confrontation between the Sikhs and the government was imminent, police said today. All vehicles entering the capital, a 1,485 square kilometer (600 square mile) area bounded by the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, are being throughly searched and the identity of passengers checked, a senior police official said. Similar precautions are under way at the city's airport and three major railway stations, where armed police and plainclothes men have been posted to observe incoming passengers, police said. Paramilitary troops are also on full alert in case Sikh extremists carry out a threat to burn part of the Indian Constitution tomorrow.

Prominent Sikh leaders here have either gone underground or under police detention, but one Sikh source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "we will carry out our plan... whatever may happen."

Meanwhile, latest reports from Punjab today said that unidentified gunmen shot dead two women and a child in Phoewal village, 45 kilometers (28 miles) from the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. This brings the death toll to 75 since February 14, when violence was unleashed in Punjab following a Hindu-sponsored strike in protest against earlier killings in Punjab.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) gave neither the religion of the victims nor identified the assailants, but it has been the minority Hindus who have fallen victim to assassins' bullets in Punjab. With the latest killing, the total known death toll in Punjab and in adjoining Haryana State rose to more than 343 since the Sikh campaign for greater political autonomy for their border state started about two years ago.

Meanwhile several Indian commentators today said that if the Sikhs burn the Constitution, which alots them the same status as the Hindus, the administration might be left with no other option but to order a major crackdown on the Sikhs.

"Punjab Advised Full Readiness...," "Police Prepare to Meet Akali Threat," "Centre Cautions Akalis Against Violence," were some of the lead headlines in the papers here. "Monday may well prove to be the watershed point in the developing Punjab situation... If the Akalis carry out the threat the government will undoubtedly respond with strong action," *TIMES OF INDIA* said. The paper said the government was ready with "contingency plans," including a crackdown on the Sikhs.

If the government descends on the Sikhs, it will have to storm the Golden Temple, the Sikh shrine in Amritsar, where officials say several Sikh militants are hiding. Entry of Indian police inside the Sikh holy places is banned by tradition, rather than by law.

Meanwhile the Hindu-dominated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has added to the possible complications if tomorrow's threat materializes by calling for a strike in the Indian capital in protest against the killings in Punjab. Efforts were under way to persuade the BJP to give up the call, sources said.

Police on 'Maximum Alert'

BK261156 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 26 Feb 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, FEB 26 (AFP) — Federal police were put on maximum alert here today following a call by the Hindu-dominated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a general strike in the Indian capital tomorrow to coincide with a planned Sikh protest.

The BJP leadership at an emergency meeting ignored the government's appeal to call off the strike, a party spokesman said.

The strike is in protest against communal violence in Punjab in which 75 people have died since February 14, when Hindus mounted a stoppage in the northern state.

It is due to start at dawn and last 12 hours, spokesman L.K. Advani said. Mr Advani said party volunteers were told to remain peaceful and not to force people to join the strike.

Several traders' associations have announced they would join the strike, but a city administration spokesman said efforts would be made to run the state buses.

Security forces were already on alert in response to the Sikhs' threat to burn part of the Indian constitution outside parliament here tomorrow.

New Delhi Chief Administrator Jagmohan warned that anyone showing disrespect to the constitution in any manner would be dealt with severely.

"It will be a serious offence and punishable with three years of imprisonment or fine or both," he told a meeting of officials delegated to maintain law and order here tomorrow.

Informed officials said that summary courts were being set up to try the Sikhs' swiftly should they violate the law.

Police Patrols

BK270322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The Delhi administration has made elaborate arrangements to ensure that normal life is not disturbed in view of the general strike call given by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Akali Dal's plan for a demonstration today. Steps have been taken to ensure that essential services function normally. Police are patrolling important places in the city to maintain law and order. The chairman of the Delhi Transport Corporation told our correspondent this morning buses will run normally.

Reportage on Situation 27 February

BK270747 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Most shops in Delhi are closed today following the call for a strike by the Bharatiya Janata Party to protest against the killings in Punjab and Haryana. In some of the localities of the capital, today is the weekly close day for shops.

Vehicular traffic including city buses, taxis, and scooters are playing normally, although traffic is less in some areas. But buses are not passing through the university campus. Work is going on normally in the industrial areas of Okhla and west Delhi; banks and offices are open. The authorities have taken strict measures to prevent any untoward incidents.

Akali Leaders Arrested

BK270851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In Chandigarh, four Akali leaders were arrested this morning for showing disrespect to the Constitution. They are the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee [SGPC] president, Mr G.S. Tohra; the former union agriculture minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala; the acting president of the Akali Dal-Talwandi group, Mr R.S. Cheema; and the former member of parliament, Mr Balwant Singh.

The four leaders arrived in front of the Secretariat and raised slogans followed by show of disrespect to the Constitution. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that they have been arrested under the prevention of insult to national honor act. The police also arrested the president of the Chandigarh unit of the party, Mr Joginder Singh Sahni, and another person for violation of Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people].

Five Akali leaders were arrested in New Delhi today for showing disrespect to the Constitution. They included the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal. They raised slogans and held a demonstration inside Gurdwara Bangla Saheb. Later, they courted arrests outside the Gurdwara.

Assam Chief Minister on Surrender of 'Extremists'

BK261605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] In Assam, more than 80 extremists — some with arms — have surrendered to the authorities so far in different districts of the state. This was stated by the state chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, today in Gauhati. Talking to newsmen, he said this indicates a major change in the situation.

Farooq Abdullah Denies Opposition Charges

BK251606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Farooq Abdullah has denied the charge that he has any relations with the Kashmir Liberation Front. Speaking to newsmen at Bangalore today, the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said that such allegations are floated by those who are not tolerating his leadership.

Referring to the threat of an attack by Pakistan on India, Dr Abdullah said that if past experience is any criterion, Pakistan will never attack India any more. He also said that the special status to Kashmir should be continued.

The president of the Jammu and Kashmir Congress-I, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, says the situation in the state is getting out of control and may endanger the unity and integrity of the country. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow today, he alleged that Dr Farooq Abdullah's government is in league with secessionists and antinational elements.

Police-Student Clashes in Pakistan Noted

Lahore 25 February

BK261402 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] In Pakistan, students and police clashed in Lahore yesterday. The students were trying to take out a protest march against the ban on students' unions by the martial law authorities. Eighteen students are reported to have been detained. The clashes erupted when the police tried to block the students from marching into Punjab University.

Karachi 26 February

BK270326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] In Pakistan, protest against the ban on student unions continued in Karachi yesterday. Over 150 students at Karachi University prevented the holding of examinations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Gulf Security, War

LD261939 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1709 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Interview with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, imam's representative on Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent on 26 February; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Following the victories of the Islamic combatants, the Supreme Defense Council held a session today. Please tell us the main issues discussed at today's session and what decisions were made.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At today's session, the council discussed a report on the situation at the war fronts and the victories and how these victories could be used for military purposes. This was studied and views were expressed on the subject. Another issue was Lebanon and the prevailing situation in Lebanon. In that respect, decisions were also made. But the main part of our discussions was on the Khaybar operations and other operations carried out in the central and northern regions of the front line.

[Correspondent] The future of the operations and the future of Iraq are among the issues foremost in the public mind. Would you please tell us what, considering the victories of the Islamic combatants in the recent operations, will bring their final victory closer; and what is your view, the view of the Islamic Republic in general, on the future of Iraq and that country's regime?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our view and our wish is that the present regime of Iraq should not last. Of course, this (?cannot) always be one of our conditions for ending the war. But for nearly 3 years, we have been saying the same thing. We have stated our conditions. Our conditions from the outset were reparation, the enemy's withdrawal, and Saddam's trial. But in the last 3 years, because they did not surrender, both we and the people of Iraq have suffered a lot of damage. Saddam's stubbornness is to be blamed for all this. In our view, a person that is so pigheaded, stubborn, and uncaring about the problems of the people and of the region is not fit to remain in office. Even if he is put on trial the result would be the same, but this is our view without the trial.

However, we will not interfere in the future of Iraq as long as this regime, which is guilty, is tried and punished; the next regime will be chosen by the people of Iraq themselves according to their wishes. If anyone tries to interfere in Iraq and to negate the authority of the people, we will not allow it. This is our role. What the people wish to do would have nothing to do with us. They will have to write their own constitution and choose their own regime, and if we can be of any assistance, we will help them if they ask for it.

[Correspondent] Following the recent operations, the imperialist media have published various comments about U.S. interference in the region to protect the Ba'thist regime of Iraq. In this connection, the U.S. fleet has moved closer to the Oman Sea. How do you interpret the publication of such comments and the moves made by the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is nothing new. For the past few months, this issue has been discussed. When they threatened to deprive us of our oil, we said that we would deprive the countries of the region and the world of their oil, and this argument started. We are still saying what we have always said, that is, the day when we are unable to use our oil — considering that we are the main guards of the Persian Gulf, and that if we were not here no one could maintain the security of the Persian Gulf, and that we would like to use this security — we will not allow others to use the Persian Gulf if we cannot use it. This is a firm decision; it is held by us as a principle. Not only because of the war now, but at any other time if such conditions arise, we would respond as we have said.

During the war, we implemented many plans to maintain the security of the Persian Gulf, our Navy's main responsibility, instead of fighting against Iraq, has been to patrol the entrance to the Indian Ocean and inside the Persian Gulf in order to maintain security. This same force would be employed to destroy the security if the need arises. The United States is bluffing in our view. The United States was tested in Lebanon. There, it had a stronger fleet and enjoyed the support of several other countries, and Lebanon was a much smaller force to deal with. But it had to leave in disgrace. Now, I do not believe that the American nation would give Reagan such license. The last Reagan would have to pay for his interference in Lebanon would be that he would not have a good chance to be reelected because of his (?limited) action in Lebanon. If he comes to (?Iran), the situation would be different. We believe that the Americans would suffer such a disaster that it would remain in world history as a major event. We are not really worried, and we have prepared ourselves for such a day. But in my view, the likelihood of such an event is very slight. The United States is not so mad, and there does not seem to be the need.

The new situation which has developed in the war, I think, would make it highly unlikely for Saddam to have the time to do such a thing, that is to say, to try and completely destroy the security of the region. Of course, Saddam has for some time pursued a policy of adventurism and is still pursuing the same policy. If he finds it possible to extend the war to the world scene and to make it an international war, he will not hesitate to do so. But we will not give him such an opportunity.

[Correspondent] With the recent operations, the issue of replacing Saddam with another pawn and also mediation by some countries has been raised again in Western circles. What is your view on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There is some talk of replacing Saddam with another pawn, but we do not know how serious it is. It is probably to quiet the atmosphere, as it were, or to give us hope, so that we may refrain from resorting to violent measures. It is however remotely possible. If others were to replace Saddam with another pawn, we would not allow it. There cannot be another pawn in Iraq, which has suffered so much damage. As was said earlier, the nation must choose. Whoever tries to do this, we will oppose it. I think that if we oppose it, no one could place a pawn there; they should have our agreement beforehand. Those who

have not had a hand in this war and who are acceptable to the people would be acceptable to us.

Regarding mediation in the war, you have seen that for more than a year we opened the doors to our country, and anyone who wanted to come came. All along we said our piece. Those gentlemen who came could resolve nothing regarding the war. They just asked us to compromise, following discussions. If that is mediation, we have had a taste of it. It is useless, we will not accept it. If anyone has anything new to say, while we carry on, we will listen; we will not be stubborn.

[Correspondent] Following the bombardment of our cities by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, that regime has made certain requests to international organizations, namely, the United Nations, to find ways of ensuring that no aggression is committed against cities and villages. What is the opinion of the Islamic Republic on this matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have repeatedly stated our opinion. The world has seen our actions, too. We waited 3-4 years and watched Iraq hit our cities and villages without doing the same. Since Saddam is in serious trouble now, he has no alternative but to tell lies or to attack with missiles or to send planes to hit defenseless civilian areas. Since he had stepped up this action, we saw that we could not leave our people defenseless withou retaliating. [Passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] My last question is about the strength and efficiency of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Up to some time ago, imperialist media commented on the lack of efficiency of that force; but following the recent operations,they have kept quiet about the matter. Can you tell us how strong and efficient is the Air Force at the moment?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I can strongly assure you that our Air Force is much stronger than it was at the outset of the war. But not quantitatively, for we have lost a number of aircraft and pilots. But our pilots have gained so much experience in the war and they are pious and determined. Our aerial facilities are not few at present. Our F-14 planes are all intact; the enemy knows that too. We have possibly had one or two F-14 crashes in the whole war. [sentence as heard] The enemy does not dare come near our F-14's. For some time, we did not send our aircraft on sorties. The enemy usually receives his information from the counterrevolution. Whoever gets his information from the counterrevolution gets this sort of information. If, for example, a certain political figure over there says something, they think it is true and believe it. Now that our aircraft have been on a number of sorties, they say that Iran's Air Force is strong while, if ever needed it can dispatch 10 times as many aircraft in a day. They are at present protecting the airspace north, west, and east of the Persian Gulf. They are protecting the airspace on all fronts, They are fighting and transporting. We are truly satisfied. May God grant them success.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns Gulf States, USSR

LD261408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1040 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Speech by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and imam's representative on Supreme Defense Council, at 26 February Majlis open session — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Certain fateful events are taking place these days affecting the region, our own country, and, perhaps, the world. These events are occurring mainly on the battlefronts.

Our enemies realize what is happening; they are watching these developments quite closely, using all their available means to prevent the tragedy awaiting them. (?For some of them), the extent of the advance of our combatants since the beginning of the war is unprecedented. The presence of our combatants from Al-Faw to Hajj 'Umran — over 1,000 km — is such that the enemy imagines that any place along this expanse could become the headquarters for future operations. Despite all the care the enemies have taken, despite all the means available to them, they have so far failed, particularly before the operations, to anticipate where the main blow was to be dealt. They made certain contradictory remarks, based on the information available to them. Even the outsiders' eyes — U.S. satellites and AWAC's — failed to provide useful information to the Iraqi Ba'thists.

As I am speaking to you, there is no doubt that along the entire length of the battlefields our forces are prepared to attack many areas, just as the Ba'thist forces are vulnerable in many places. As for the Khaybar operations, they were something that created considerable apprehension among our enemies. Before anyone else, the Zionist authorities in Israel expressed their apprehension because of their own sensitivity. The Israeli Joint Staff officially announced that the crossing of the Tigris was tantamount to reaching its eastern front in Jordan, that it meant the activation of the Jordanian front against Israel.

Naming the operations Khaybar was not a random decision. This particular name has caused apprehension in both the reactionary and the infidels as well as Israel. As for the nature of the operations, they will, God willing, be explained to our heroic nation at the final stages of the operations. Briefly, however, it ought to be mentioned that our combative forces, while closely safeguarding their strategy, succeeded in crossing a vast region extending over 1,500 km of marshland and lakes and waterways in Hawr al-Huwayzah. They succeeded in supplying more than 40 km [word indistinct] of the Tigris River — an area leading to another 30 km of water and marshland, thus cutting off [words indistinct]. Consequently, a highway that supplies 60 percent of Iraqi imports to the north of that country is now incapable of accommodating even a single truck. We hear certain propaganda and machinations as well as false statistics, all of them totally groundless. For instance, one hears the report, that in a certain

area several thousand Iranians have been killed, yet this is an area where no operations have taken place! These reports are used as weapons to maintain morale. However, all these vast and mammoth actions are only the beginning. God willing, we will witness in the future the effects of the operations in other parts of the frontlines — in the north, in the central region, and in the south.

What Saddam, the Ba'th Party, and the imperialist media are today concentrating on are the same ruthlessness and adventurism of the past. Fortunately, these acts once again reveal their true faces. When, 1 week ago, the Iraqis declared that they were prepared to unilaterally stop launching missile attacks, air raids, and raids on the cities and civilian areas, we were quite convinced that within a matter of days they would disgrace themselves, thus once again revealing their true faces. Nevertheless, we accepted this and stopped hitting their towns. But then we saw that within a few days they resumed their past crimes. As a result, towns such as Borujerd, Khorramabad, Pol-e Dokhtar, Kuhdasht, Ilam, Saqqez, Baneh, and other towns were immersed in blood and dust and they committed the crimes we all saw. The most disgraceful act of all was the event that took place overnight, when they launched a missile attack on Hoveyzeh, the heroic town which is being reconstructed — a town they had demolished in the past. This act was designed to take revenge on Huwayzah where they had been slaughtered.

Their act today clearly revealed their true faces as well as those of the counterrevoltuionaries who were trying to capitalize on a lie. The lie that they would stop the bombings, as well as the extensive mileage the counterrevolutionaries and the arrogant world media got out of it, thus came out into the open through their last-ditch efforts.

At this point, we would like to make two things clear to two parts of the world. One is addressed to the southern states in the Persian Gulf. They must take care and realize the threshold they stand on. Once again, we urge them to realize that the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite all its might, has no wish to harm them. It has no wish to seek revenge for their past adventurisms. Consequently, stop your protection before it is too late. You must choose the path you are to take before it is too late.

Our second warning is addressed to the USSR. As for the Americans, we know where we stand against them. They are our sworn enemies, therefore we do not expect anything from them. However, the USSR, which claims good-neighborly relations, must bear in mind that our lamenting towns today view themselves, their mournings, and all their feelings in the light of the crimes committed against them by means of its missiles. A town which has been hit several times by (?SAM) or Scud missiles [words indistinct] can never view the USSR as a country adhering to good-neighborly relations. If you do not want to see this hostility turned into a clash [neza'] in the future, if you do not want to show this wickedness any more in the region, then stop doing what you are doing. Stop your butcher. The missiles you have piled up in the Iraqi depots — in your entire life neither yourselves nor any of your satellites have utilized so many missiles! Not even in Vietnam or Korea were so many missiles deployed. Yet you claim to want good-neighborly relations with us. You have not supplied either Syria or Libya with so many missiles nor have you allowed any other countries of the world to use so many missiles. You do realize that your butcher is on the verge of collapse, you see that he is reacting to our people's humanitarian actions in the battlefronts by resorting to lies and by launching missiles. Do not ensnare yourselves anymore in this quagmire. We want good-neighborly relations and have proved it. But, you are lying.

Meanwhile, remember: This time, when our people have already left their homes and participated in such vast numbers in the battlefields — when they have amassed their manpower behind the lines in the rear of the battlefronts — they will not, this time, return home before settling the war. This time, we hope to be able, through devotion, hard work, and resistance — however long it might take — to establish a desirable and lasting peace in the region.

Khamene'i Speaks at Friday Prayers 24 Feb

LD241523 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Simultaneous with the remarkable victories gained by the combatants of the Islamic liberation army during the victorious Khaybar operations, millions of our Muslim compatriots throughout the country today participated massively in the political-religious and glorious Friday prayers ceremonies and raised their hands in prayer for the final victory of Islam's troops over the Zionist enemy.

Today, as on previous Fridays, Tehran University and the surrounding streets witnessed monolithic attendance at the awesome, enemy-destroying Friday prayers by the Muslim and ever-present people, who observed this prophetic tradition in close ranks under Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

At the beginning of his second sermon, Tehran's Friday imam said: The question that is of interest today, not only to the Iranian nation, but to all the Muslim people in this region and the world — and possibly to the sum total of the contradictory and ambivalent policy of global arrogance [as heard] — is the issue of the war and the continuous and successful attacks that could be said to have brought the 3-and-1/2-year-old imposed war to a new phase.

Of course, the Lebanese problem is also part of the day's important problems, since in Lebanon the United states received a slap from a people it never thought could have such powers of resistance. The United States' disgraceful retreat from the region has made U.S. policy in the region and the world a fiasco. At the same time, attempts are being made to make up for this disgrace, but this will not happen. The United States and its allies suffered a bitter defeat in Lebanon. If it is not bigger than other U.S. defeats in recent years, this defeat is certainly not smaller either.

But this defeat cannot compare with the U.S. defeat on the battlefields between Iran and the Zionist enemy. This is because of the hope they entertained in bringing Saddam into the war, namely, that of crushing the Islamic Revolution. They certainly entertained a spot of hope that by imposing the war,

strengthening Iraq, and injecting riches, money, and arms into the dying cadaver of the Iraqi regime they might be able to save that regime. This was the hope entertained by the United states and its allies in the region, which has fallen apart.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Our operations consisted of three phases: The first phase was the Val-Fajr V operations in an important strategic region linking up the Maysan and Al-Kut Provinces. The second operation was Val-Fajr VI, which took place in the sensitive areas of the Chilat defile, extremely important from the strategic standpoint. The other point was Chazabah, which is of special importance since it brought the Al-'Amarah-Basra highway under the threat of Islamic forces. The third phase was constituted by the victorious Khaybar operation, which is reminiscent of Muslim struggles at the dawn of Islam against the enemies of Islam.

Today, when the Zionists are threatening the Islamic world, it is appropriate that all the Islamic world's capabilities be mobilized to confront the Zionist enemy, whereas certain reactionary leaders in the region are equipping Iraq to attack our country. The Persian Gulf countries, Egypt, Morocco, and Sudan are attempting to strengthen our enemy with their false propaganda, and this action of theirs has a Zionist nature whether they wish to admit this or not. One should ask: If Israel had these capabilities at its disposal, what would it do to the Islamic world? Could it have acted worse than these reactionary leaders have against us?

Referring to certain aspects of the victories achieved by Islam's combatants during the Khaybar operation, the head of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized: We will occupy the enemy's castles--like those of Al-Khaybar.

Tehran's Friday imam added: [Begin Khamene'i recording] Up to this hour, the operations have been carried out in the best possible manner, and Islam's combatants have moved forward powerfully in accordance with the forecasts and guesses that had been made. The Val-Fajr V and VI operations are continuing. They have not ended. The extremely glorious operation began at the height of Val-Fajr VI, and while the naive At-Tikriti Ba'thist leaders in Baghdad slept soundly Islam's combatants were able to make great inroads into Iraq's borders and to reach and settle a sensitive and secure point — a base for a big offensive — by the side of the great strategic Basra-Al-'Amarah highway. Then the Tikritites just woke up from their slumbers and saw that the Islamic combatants had come and established themselves in that extremely important area in the heart of Iraqi soil, in the area of the great asphalted Basra-Al-'Amarah highway.

Of course, recently — that is, last night — they reported and this morning they emphasized that two islands in the middle of the marsh — these two islands — have also been occupied by the combatant forces, reports of which apparently were brought to public attention by radio. Let me tell you: These are important. [loud cheers]

With the Val-Fajr V and VI operations the Al-'Amarah-Baghdad highway, which passes through 'Ali al-Gharbi, has been subjected to our brothers' fire. With the Khaybar operation, the great strategic Basra-Al-'Amarah has been subjected to direct fire and, in places, to occupation by the Islamic forces. What you are hearing is something: A highway — and one in this region — is extraordinarily important to the Iraqi forces.

Of course, we know that today Iraq is utterly weak. At the beginning of the war, Iraq had 10 armored, mechanized infantry, and infantry divisions fully armed and equipped with various weapons. Today those divisions are mostly destroyed. Those that remain are not up to Iraq's needs in aptitude and capacity. They are filling the gaps with untrained, untested forces under the name of the Popular Army and other names. Just as you have heard in interviews, they have gone to tradesmen, grocers, tailors, and I do not know what else, from other professions. They have gone to the bazaar, to the streets and the shops, and brought these people to fill the gaps left in the military. Iraq today is weak from the standpoint of manpower. How could Iraq fight on several fronts with this very small manpower?

The only way open to Iraq is to have strong lines of communications, which would entail an easy transportation system for the enemy so that he can move from north to south, from the central front to the south, and from various points in this or that direction in order to be opposite Islam's combatants in order to resist. Of course, this has been the case right from the beginning of the war. Right from the beginning of the war, they attached great importance to highway communications and, therefore, also suffered great dangers.

The war which the Iraqis prosecuted in Al-Huwayzah in the year 1359 [1981] was based on another, closer highway, apart from the highway which we are now discussing, from north to south in order to be able to reach the depths of Iranian soil, but the road to Jerusalem operations were able to close that highway. Then the Iraqis exclusively used the asphalted Basra-Al-'Amarah highway — which was the link between III Corps in the south and IV and II Corps in the central and northern sectors of the front — for their north-south communiations, through which they could move the necessary forces and move forces from somewhere else to wherever the front is weak. Today this vital jugular, which could be the means for moving forces, is in the grip of the total power of Islam's combatants. [loud cheers]

Of course, in later phases, work began on other axes. I humbly mention some of these. These are, of course, mentioned in military communiques — as long as this would not cause any difficulties in the conduct of the war — in order to provide public information for the benefit of the people. I will also give you some detailed information about things that some of our brothers might not know:

Among other places, there are these two islands, known as the Majnun islands, in the midst of the swamp, islands which were important to us both from the strategic standpoint — the possibility of military attack — and the economic standpoint. There are more than 50 oil wells there. There is a tremendous oil source — some 8 billion barrels — under these islands. I would like to explain this for the benefit of our brothers and sisters, so that they properly appreciate how much oil is involved: I would humbly say that, according to calculations, if 200,000 barrels were to be extracted from these wells daily, people would be able to extract oil for more than 100 years. [loud cheers]

Such momentous riches! Of course, the economic and psychological value is not of first importance to us. What is important for us is the fact that we could use these islands as a strong and secure springboard for dealing a blow to the body of the defeated, enfeebled, and demoralized Iraqi forces, and so far we have used the islands for this.

In the morning, before coming to the prayers, I contacted our brothers on the front lines. They told me that when the brothers went from that point to the area behind the enemy forces they hit so many enemy armored vehicles, tanks, and armored personal carriers [APC's] that they turned the area into a vast cemetery for tanks and APC's. [loud cheers] [end recording]

The head of the Supreme Defense Council continued his second sermon, emphasizing: Today the Iraqi regime has no other way but to surrender to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We did not and do not have any desire to attack, but we shall crush the attacker. Foreign radios should not attempt to make the people of the region frightened of us.

Sooner or later, we will crush anyone who attacks us, just as we have crushed the Zionist enemy who is breathing his last breath.

Tehran's Friday imam added: In order to make up for its disgrace in Lebanon the United States is hatching a plot in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Right from the beginning,we have said, and will continue to say, that as long as our ships can pass through the Strait of Hormuz we will not do anything to anybody, but should U.S. fleets and their supporters wish to do anything in the Strait of Hormuz, their fate would decisively be worse than their fate in Lebanon. Should the United States wish to undertake acts of adventurism in the Persian Gulf to make up for its disgrace in Lebanon or to save the Iraqi regime from its downfall, we would destroy all U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

It would be better for politicians to be more realistic. The world has never seen such a nation. Our nation is resisting and our great leader is a mountain of power, resolution, and will power. We will crush the aggressor, and as long as the present Iraqi regime is in power, we shall not have any hope for peace, not only in our country, but in the region.

Therefore, we believe that peace in the region can only be secured when we overthrow the Iraqi regime. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the genuine supporter of peace, not Saddam. The Iraqi nation will never see tranquillity as long as Saddam exists.

The same goes for his masters. Stationing atomic missiles in various parts of the world — could this be construed as seeking peace? Dispatching their fleets to the Persian Gulf — is that seeking peace? No, they tell lies. We are the genuine peace seekers and not they.

Tehran's Friday imam devoted his first Friday prayers sermon this week to government, leadership, and the recognition of the true face of a satanical ruler in an Islamic regime. At the conclusion of his sermons, he read a sermon in Arabic for the benefit of our Muslim Arab brothers and sisters.

Arabic Sermon

GF241750 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Arabic sermon by President Khamene'i during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 24 February — recorded]

[Text] Peace be upon our great Muslim nation throughout the world. Peace be upon all strugglers who are standing fast in the fight of right against wrong. Brothers and sisters: Our world is passing through a very critical stage. The [word indistinct] of the international oppressors in the face of the resistance of the oppressed masses is about to enter a new phase. Perhaps we can say that history has rarely witnessed a period that has such a decisive effect on the shape of the future as the current period. We have come to this conclusion as a result of a number of issues in various parts of the world today. We can sense clear economic, political, and military signs that the spear of the international oppressors is being blunted — a spear that one day used to mercilessly slash and kill.

On the Islamic level, one can refer to the Lebanese question prior to referring to other issues. The United States and the arrogant powers, in general, have been dealt a heavy blow in the Lebanese question. U.S. policy in Lebanon has so far met with abysmal failure. It is certain that the future of this policy will not be better than what it is at present. What is important in the events in Lebanon is the awareness of the Muslim people of that country. Such awareness would, of course, have not been so effective and strong had it not been for the awareness of other Muslim peoples in the Muslim world.

The Zionists imagined Lebanon as fragmented and free of any resistance by the masses. The United States believed that strategic country was in its power and that it could steer it as it pleased. However, after 1 and 1/2 years and after the adoption of all possible measures, including the stationing of U.S. and European forces in Lebanon, everything proves that the Zionists and the U.S. rulers were mistaken in their belief. The United States is suffering from the bitterness of its great defeat in Lebanon, particularly as such a defeat has been inflicted by a people who have not been given the least consideration by U.S. policy or by the policies of countries subservient to the United States.

The effect of the failure of the United States in Lebanon is not confined to Lebanon and the Middle East. The effect of this scandalous failure will be reflected on U.S. policy throughout the world. We are now witnessing tangible evidence of this. The defeat of the United States also means the defeat of the usurper Zionists. The Zionists today are more frightened than ever before as a result of the imbroglio in which they have been embroiled. The fate of the Zionists in Lebanon will inevitably be more bitter and they will suffer more defeats than they have, God willing.

The position of France and the other aggressor countries in this issue is not better than the position of the United States or the entity usurping Palestine. They all believed that they would have their way in Lebanon following the departure of the Palestinians from that part of the Muslim homeland. However, the mass and

Islamic struggle in Lebanon dissipated the hopes of those who harbor ambitions in that country.

The other issue which is causing much greater bitterness to the oppressors than the Lebanese question is that of the war imposed on Iran. After about 3 and 1/2 years, the United States, France, and the other forces supporting the Iraqi regime are witnessing the avalanche of the mountains of ice which they erected with great effort in the face of the light of the Islamic Revolution and its flowing current. Our forces today are dealing the last blows. It is certain that the Iraqi people are happy with the result. Everyone knows that the war was imposed on us just as it was imposed on the Iraqi people. Those who imposed the war aimed to have the At-Tikriti clique ruling Iraq push the Islamic Revolution toward an impasse.

With the help of God, our people have withstood a most difficult war. There has been a great difference in the financial and media support enjoyed and military hardware owned by the two sides in the war. The United States, France, the international arms cartels, and the reactionaries in the area all cooperated to have us defeated by the rash rulers of Baghdad. They did not hesitate to commit all kinds of sins including actions that are considered crimes even in the customs of beasts who call themselves civilized, such as the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, the imprisonment of civilians, the bombardment of areas populated by civilians, and other actions of the kind.

We have borne all this patiently and steadfastly, relying on God and on His promise: "Our word to our messengers has come true. They are victorious and our soldiers are triumphant." [Koranic verses]

The Almighty said: "We promised to grant the believers victory." We have borne all that and today we see with our own eyes the heralds of victory on the horizon, God willing.

Throughout the past period we have been in a defensive state. We are still defending ourselves against an enemy who is now, as a result of his weakness and collapse, asking for reconciliation [sulh] and peace, now that his aggressive nature has been exposed in every instance of the war. We never wanted to attack anyone. If they did not attack us, we would not have initiated an attack against anyone. Today we say to all the countries of the region and to neighboring countries: We prefer to have relations of coexistence and friendship with them than any other kind of relations. Of course, we will not tolerate aggression at all.

We note that recently the United States and some of its allies have been preparing for an adventure in the area of our country's southern waters in the hope of saving the face that was lost in Lebanon. I warn all adventurers and emphasize that we will respond to any rash move in the area of our territorial waters with great firmness. I emphasize that we will respond to any rash move in the area of our territorial waters with great firmness and the adventurers will only reap defeat and disgrace.

I extend the greetings of brotherhood and fraternity to the Iraqi Muslim people and assure them that the Islamic Republic is a support for them and that all Iraqi brothers — Arabs, Kurds, and Turkmen, Sunnis and Shi'ites — are our beloved brothers. We ask Almighty God to grant us success to do all that we can to help them.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "When the help of God and victory come and you see men entering God's religion in throngs, then proclaim the praise of your Lord and ask His forgiveness, for He is forgiving." [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Iraq's Cease-fire Request to Sweden Noted

LD241415 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] It was announced today in Stockholm, capital of Sweden, that the Zionist Iraqi regime has appealed to the Swedish Government to use all its power to bring about a cease-fire between the forces of Islam and Saddam's Zionist regime.

According to a Swedish newspaper, the Iraqi regime's charge d'affaires in Stockholm last night conveyed this matter in memorandum to the head of the political office of the Swedish Foreign Affairs Ministry. Quoting the charge d'affaires of the Zionist Iraqi regime in Sweden, the newspaper writes: Reports on the progress of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to 40 km inside Iraqi territory are very worrying. He emphasized: A cease-fire agreement to save Saddam's regime is very important now. He added: We hope Swedish officials will make an effort to this end.

Joint Operations Center Issues Communiques

Communique No 10

LD241658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1547 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Communique No 10 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] The fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during four extraterritorial sorties, again caused heavy casualties and damage to the enemy. They all returned to base safely. At 0825 this morning, several fighter planes of the Islamic Armed Forces Air Force attacked forces of the IV Corps of the Zionist regime's army, which intended to launch a counterattack on the positions of the Islamic forces. The attack took place along the Al-'Amarah-Basra axis. Having demolished the enemy's equipment and armored weapons, they totally destroyed some of their units.

Following the criminal act by the Zionist-Ba'thist regime in launching missile attacks on Borujerd and Khorramabad, the Islamic Republic fighter planes, in retaliation, attacked the administrative and military installations of Rawanduz in Iraq at 1136 this morning. Having bombed the installations, they inflicted more heavy casualties and damage on the regime ruling Baghdad.

Moreover, at 1520 today, airmen of the Islamic Armed Forces, flying over Al-'Amarah in Iraq, bombed concentration points ofthe Ba'thist forces as well as administrative and economic centers of the town; they caused some damage to the centers.

The heroic and selfless fighters of the Islamic Republic Air Force, continuing their battle against the Ba'thist-Zionist mercenaries, succeeded in dealing horrendous blows to the defeated enemy forces, smashing several enemy tanks and personnel carriers. The action took place in the Khaybar operational zone and was supported by the Islamic forces.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic Armed Forces express their gratitude to the heroic and brave airmen of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces who, since the beginning of the glorious Khaybar operations, have had an impressive role in the victories achieved. These individuals helped other Islamic fighters to achieve their objectives by their selfless sacrifices. May God's hand and the prayer of the imam of the nation and the brave Islamic nation be with them.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 11

LD241725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1701 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Communique No 11 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operations center of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Revolutionary and martyr-nurturing nation of Iran: The self-sacrificing sons of the hezbollahi nation, in continuation of the victorious Khaybar operations, carried out along several axes in Iraq's Al-'Amarah and Basra Provinces succeeded in delivering further heavy and crushing blows on the forces of the Zionist regime ruling Iraq. In the course of an intense battle which led to the capture of the important Tuwaylah bridge, 120 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were set ablaze and destroyed and 2 enemy helicopters were downed west of Tuwaylah. Also thanks to the bravery and steadfastness of the mighty warriors of Islam, three enemy counterattacks were crushed in the vicinity of the Tigris River and the Zionist enemy fled after suffering heavy losses.

In continuation of the victorious Khaybar operations, another 1,500 enemy troops were either killed or wounded, bringing to over 6,500 the total number of enemy dead and wounded since the start of the victorious Khaybar operations. A large number of enemy forces were also captured by the warriors of Islam, with 500 so far having been taken behind the lines and hundreds more awaiting transfer there. The Islamic combatants have also captured a large amount of enemy weapons and ammunition as booty during the Khaybar operations. These include 20 BTR personnel carriers, over 120 lift trucks, dozens of antiaircraft guns, dozens of mini-Katyushas, a large number of mortar tubes of various caliber,and countless numbers of light weapons along with several large ammunition depots. The forces of Islam captured this equipment intact and are using them in the battle against the Zionist enemy.

The intense battle between the forces of Islam and the forces of blasphemy continues and the warriors of Islam continue their advance. If you help God, He will help you and will give you strong steps.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, peace be upon him and his scion, center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic

Communique No 12

LD251731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Communique No 12 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for combined operations of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brave nation of Islam, valiant nation of Iran: The mighty and God-seeking combatants of the army of monotheism, who are bravely continuing the victorious Khaybar operations along several axes in Iraq's Al-'Amarah and Basra Provinces, continued their advance and consolidation of their newly captured positions today. During an intense clash with the Zionist enemy, the combatants, backed by the blasphemy-defeating fire of the fast-flying helicopters of the Airborne Division of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, succeeded in hitting and downing six enemy helicopters on the banks of the Tigris River in the Khaybar operational theater. During these clashes, the mighty forces of Islam succeeded in destroying more than 17 tanks and personnel carriers and a large number of vehicles of the Ba'thist mercenaries. The forces of Islam also succeeded in capturing intact 10 tanks and personnel carriers and a large quantity of enemy ammunition.

During today's operations, more than 500 troops of the Zionist enemy were either killed or wounded, bringing to more than 7,000 the total number of enemy casualties since the start of the victorious Khaybar operations. A number of the defeated forces of the enemy were also taken prisoner by the forces of Islam and the task of taking them behind the battlelines continues. To date, 812 Iraqi POW's have been taken behind the battlelines.

Following the heavy losses and casualties suffered by the Zionist enemy, the defeated enemy desperately launched five counterattacks in the northern region of the Al-'Uzayr bridge and the southern sector of the Khaybar operational theater. However,owing to the steadfastness of the ever vigilant forces of the corps of Islam, all enemy counterattacks were repulsed and the enemy forces suffered further heavy losses in this theater.

In addition to the downing of one enemy plane, which was hit by the air defense units and the fast-flying fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the country's southern

operational theater this morning, another enemy plane was thetarget of the fire of the mighty forces of the army of Islam in the Khaybar operational sector.

The intense battle of the powerful forces of Islam against the forces of the Ba'thist regime ruling Baghdad continues with full superiority of the self-sacrificing forces of the army of Islam. Anyone who helps God will receive God's assistance, and He will strengthen their steps.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 13

LD261111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1037 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Communique No 13 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for combined operations of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night the brave and self-sacrificing sons of the hezbollahi nation, in continuation of the victorious Khaybar operations, launched a broad, rapid attack on the forces of the Zionist enemy in the Al-'Uzayr region of Iraq and completely wiped out their positions in this region. During this attack, hundreds of enemy troops were either killed or wounded and a number of them were taken prisoner. Following these operations, the forces of Islam fully cleansed another region of the operational theater of the filth of the forces of the Iraqi-Zionist regime.

The combatants of Islam also attacked the enemy positions in the Al-Qurnah region in Basra Province. They advanced toward their objectives, smashed the enemy weapons and equipment, and killed or wounded a number of their troops. The forces of Islam also mopped up the village of Ritba and one post in the northern region of Basra Province.

During last night's operations, several enemy tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and the forces of Islam captured intact 12 tanks and personnel carriers, a large number of loaders, bulldozers and various types of vehicles, light and heavy weapons, and ammunition.

Yesterday evening, another helicopter of the Zionist enemy was hit by the fire of the forces of Islam in the Khaybar operational theater and crashed. The battle continues with full superiority of the forces of Islam; the warriors of Islam are delivering heavy blows to the forces of the Zionist enemy.

[Signed] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the combined operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 14

LD271115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Communique No 14 of Khatim ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for combined operations of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Verily we achieved a clear victory. The self-sacrificing warriors of the liberating armed forces of Islam, backed by the undiminishing divine succur, are continuing their brave battle against the enemies of Islam and the Koran and are delivering repeated and fatal blows to the foe.

The mighty combatants of Islam, in continuation of the victorious Khaybar operations, launched a vast and lightening attack on enemy positions south of Majnun Island and northeast of An-Nashwah in Iraq last night and achieved new successes. During these victorious operations, the brave and powerful forces of Islam, by smashing the enemy positions, fully destroyed two armored battalions and two infantry battalions of the 27th Brigade from the 1st Division of the Iraqi-Zionist regime's Armed Forces. The powerful forces of Islam also killed or wounded over 500 enemy troops and captured a number of the enemy. Thanks to the fire of the forces of Islam, 40 tanks and personnel carriers of the Zionist enemy were destroyed.

During the lightening attack of the powerful combatants of Islam on enemy positions, two more battalions of the Iraqi 1st Division, who were incapable of facing the forces of Islam, fled the battlefield, and the zealous sons of the hezbollahi nation, now in their consolidated positions, are continuing the battle with full superiority.

[Unsigned]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,646

LD241803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,646 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 0825 this morning, the proud and self-sacrificing pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed enemy units and moving columns along the Al-'Amarah-Basra highway. They also bombed the Rawanduz Garrison in the northern part of Iraq at 1536 this afternoon. Our proud pilots inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces in the Khaybar operational sector, destroyed over 70 percent of the Rawanduz Garrison, and returned safely to base. Also, at 1515 today, the fast flyers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran bombed Iraqi forces in the southern operational sector, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy. After crushing and annihilating large parts of the Iraqi forces, our victorious and proud pilots safely returned to base.

The other warriors of Islam on the northwestern and western fronts of the country were enjoying high morale resulting fromthe victories of their comrades-in-arms on the southern fronts; they continued their battle more powerfully to annihilate the disintegrating enemy. On every front, the mighty defenders of Islam, by opening intense artillery fire on positions, troops, armored equipment, and batteries of the Saddamist forces, inflicted considerable losses on them.

In the Panjwin sector, an Iraqi heavy mortar was destroyed and a large part of enemy defensive positions, including over 15 slit trenches and foxholes were set ablaze and destroyed.

The brave warriors of the Navy and Gendarmerie on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts opened intense fire on positions, units, and installations of the Saddamist forces on the other side of the Arvand Rud, killing a number of their troops, destroying one building of the Saddamist forces, and setting ablaze and destroying over 14 enemy light and heavy weapons emplacements.

Following the defeats of the Iraqi Ba'thists in the battlefields, the Saddamist criminals hit the cities of Khorramabad and Borujerd with missiles between 0110 and 0130 this morning. As a result of these horrific crimes, 50 of our dear compatriots were martyred in Khorramabad and 21 were martyred in Borujerd. A large number of people were also wounded in these two cities and heavy damage was inflicted on houses and shops.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan was under long-range artillery fire by the Saddamist mercenaries, which destroyed 1 school, damaged about 15 houses and shops, and set fire to several districts of the city.

Communique No 1,647

LD251809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,647 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The proud and noble pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran successfully completed this afternoon three extraterritorial missions. At 0650 today, our fast-flying fighter planes bombed their targets in the towns of Al-Miqdadiyah, Ba'qubah, and Sayyidiyah. At 0755 today, several other fighter planes bombed economic and military installations in the towns of Irbil, 'Aqrah, and Al-'Amadiyah. Also at 1100 today, a number of our fighter planes bombed predetermined targets in 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali ash-Sharqi, and the enemy's forces east and south of 'Ali al-Gharbi and east of 'Ali ash-Sharqi came under fire. As a result, enemy forces sustained casualties and damage.

Also at 0806 today, an enemy plane spotted in the country's southern airspace was downed by the air defene units and the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yesterday our Ground Forces units' activities in the operational regions in the northwest and west continued with firing on enemy positions. On each front, casualties and damages were inflicted on the Saddamist forces. In exchanges of fire in the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, the combatants of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran fired on enemy positions to the west of the Arvand Rud, destroying 12 vehicles carrying personnel and ammunition, 2 mortars, 1 106-mm gun, 2 ammunition depots, and 4 foxholes and trenches. Also one enemy tank was destroyed by our combatants in the region to the south of Kushk .

Yesterday the towns of Mahabad, Saqqez, and Eslamabad and today the towns of Baneh and Ilam were bombed by enemy planes, which resulted in the martyrdom or injury of a number of our civilian compatriots and which damaged buildings in the mentioned towns. The city of Abadan came under heavy weapons' fire by the enemy yesterday, as a result of which 18 houses and stores were destroyed.

Yesterday, our forces' artillery fired on the cities of Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin, damaging economic and military installations in these cities.

Communique No 1,648

LD261723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,648 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] At 1717 today, an aggressor Iraqi aircraft was shot down by the fighter planes of the Air Force and air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Khaybar operational sector.

Yesterday, on the other fronts of the battle between right and wrong, the proud Islamic combatants continued to destroy enemy positions and personnel. On the Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Marivan,and Bakhtaran-e Ilam operational fronts, they brought enemy defensive positions, supply roads, logistic points, motorized columns, and weapons under heavy artillery and mortar fire, disrupting enemy movements, which were mostly intended to reinforce the forces in combat, destroying a considerable number of enemy positions and light and heavy weapons emplacements and killing or injuring several enemy personnel on every front. Also, by dispatching reconnaissance and patrol groups, they located enemy operational and engineering activities and inflicted crushing blows and losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

During an exchange of fire on the Arvand Rud front,the Islamic combatants repelled enemy fire and fired on some enemy positions and fortifications, destroying at least 12 personnel bunkers and weapons' emplacements and killing a number of enemy personnel.

During the past 24 hours, the Islamic forces' long-range artillery fired on Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali, resulting in losses and damage to enemy military, administrative, and economic installations.

Iraq Attacks Cities, Casualties Reported

Mahabad, Kuhdasht

LD241713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Following the victories of the Islamic forces, at about 1640 today, several Iraqi planes bombed Mahabad and killed the innocent inhabitants of the town. As a result of this attack, 14 people have thus far been martyred and more than 40 civilians have been injured. Among the injured are a great many women and children. Furthermore, several residential houses and one school suffered great damage.

Moreover, in continuation of the Saddam regime's crimes in attacking the populated areas of our country, at 1630 today, two aggressive Iraqi planes bombed three districts in the populated areas of the heroic town of Kuhdasht. As a result, dozens of the inhabitants of the town were either martyred or injured. Many houses were also destroyed. Reports say that the heroic population of the town is actively engaged in helping the injured and removing them from the debris.

Saqqez City

LD250923 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Sanandaj, Feb 24, IRNA — Two Iraqi MIGs attacked the Kurdish city of Saqqez today, wounding two civilians and damaging several homes.

The enemy planes attacked the city at 16:30 hours (local time) but dropped their bombs aimlessly in areas outside the city and broke the sound barrier. They were confronted with anti-aircraft fire.

This was the fourth Iranian city attacked by Iraq today. Early in the morning, Iraq fired missiles at Borujerd and Khorramabad, in Lurestan Province. The attacks left 80 civilians martyred and more than 350 wounded.

In retaliation, Iran today opened artillery fire on Basra and the Iranian air force planes carried out raids against military economic and administrative targets in the northeastern town of Rawanduz and the southeastern town of Al-'Amarah, close to the Khaybar operational region.

Kuhdasht, Pol-e Dokhtar

LD251044 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Khorramabad, Lurestan Province, Feb 25, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed Kuhdasht and Pol-e Dokhtar martyring 28 people and wounding 350 other Friday afternoon.

These brought to six the number of Iraqi attacks on civilian areas in the Islamic Republic on Friday. The Iraqi regime fired missiles at Bojnurd and Khorramabad and carried out air raids against Saqqez and Mahabad in western Iran.

The attack on Kuhdasht, about 130 km west of here, at 16:30 hours (local time) left 25 civilians martyred and 250 wounded. Efforts are continuing to search for other possible victims.

At 16:10 hours, the Iraqi war planes attacked the town of Pol-e Dokhtar, about 85 km southwest of here. martyring three civilians and wounding 100 others.

Also more than 250 homes and buildings were destroyed in the attack on Kuhdasht and more than 50 were destroyed in Pol-e Dokhtar.

The Iraqi missile attacks on Bourujerd martyred 50 civilians and wounded 225 and in Khorramabad 30 were martyred and 125 wounded Friday.

The air raid against Saqqez left two people wounded. But 17 were martyred and 100 other injured in the air raid against Mahabad.

In retaliation, the Iranian Air Force planes attacked military and economic centres in the southeastern Iraqi city of Al-'Amarah and the northeastern town of Rawanduz yesterday.

The Islamic forces also opened fire on Iraq's second largest city, Basra, after a week of calm following Iran's decision to stop attacks on Iraqi cities as long as the Iraqi regime stood by its pledge to do the same.

Missiles in Hoveyzeh

LD261112 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Ahvaz Feb. 26 — Two missiles hit the war devastated town of Hoveyzeh about 80 kms west of here just after midnight today, wounding 24 people.

Hoveyzeh is among several Iranian towns completeley levelled during the Iraqi invasion more than three years ago. But an elaborate reconstruction plan was underway beside the site of the levelled town by the Razavi foundation of Khorasan Province.

Hundreds of homes and buildings were reconstructed in the past 18 months and were due for delivery in a few months.

Baneh, Marivan

LD261132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Correspondent's report from Sanandaj]

[Text] Following the victorious continuation of the Val-Fajr VI and Khaybar operations, the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq has resorted to insane bombing and firing missiles on civilian areas of our Islamic homeland. Around 1330 yesterday afternoon, the planes of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime bombed the resistance and martyr-nurturing city of Baneh. During this barbaric attack, one school, one hospital, and several residences were destroyed and a number of inhabitants martyred. Some 48 other inhabitants were wounded.

Also around 1345 yesterday, three intruding planes of the Iraqi forces violated the airspace of Marivan, but thanks to the air defense fire of the heroes of the army of Islam, they were forced to flee before carrying out any operations.

Shelling of Abadan

GF261720 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 26, IRNA — Some 13 houses, two shops and one school were destroyed or damaged as a result of Iraqi shelling of the city of Abadan, south Iran, during the past 24 hours.

Fire occurred in some parts of the city, but was extinguished by firemen.

Iraqi forces also opened fire on the city on Saturday, destroying several housing units and shops. There is no known casualty toll from the attack.

Abadan has been targeted by the Iraqi troops almost every day since the Iraqi invasion. In this city more than 1,200 civilians have so far been martyred, over 7,000 injured and some 40,000 homes damaged ranging from 20 to 100 percent.

Eslamabad-e Gharb

GF261728 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Three Iraqi warplanes rocketed residential areas of Eslamabad-e Gharb in Bakhtaran Province at 13:35 hours local time (10:05 GMT) today.

In this brutal attack, the enemy aircraft fired nine rockets at six residential sectors of the city which have resulted in the martyrdom of 60 civilians and the wounding of more than 150 others as of 18:30 hours local time.

The attack completely devastated 50 residential units and 20 shops as well as damaging 500 other homes.

The latest Iraqi bombardment against this city was carried out on Feb. 14, 1984. In this attack, at least 30 inhabitants were martyred and 100 others wounded. Also, 80 residential units were destroyed while, the martyred and wounded civilians comprised mainly children and women.

Attack on Kuhdasht

GF261738 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Khorramabad, Feb. 26, IRNA — Seven civilians have been reported martyred and 80 others wounded as of 19:00 hours local time today as a result of Iraqi bombardment of residential areas of Kuhdasht, in Lorestan Province. In this savage attack, two Iraqi war planes bombarded three points of the city at 13:33 hours local time (10:30 GMT) devastating 43 homes and 80 shops. The previous Iraqi bombardment of the city, which was the first attack, was carried out on Friday, February 24, leaving at least 25 people martyred and 250 others wounded.

Iraqi Airplanes Violate Masjed Soleyman Airspace

GF261316 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Excerpt] In continuation of its crimes, the airplanes of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime violated the Masjed Soleyman airspace this morning and encountered the fire of our alert air defense. Theywere forced to flee before they could carry out their mission.

IRNA Says Eight Iraqi Cities Attacked by Air Force

LD251055 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ., Feb. 25, IRNA — Over 10 Iranian air force fighters bombarded eight Iraqi cities and returned to their base safely Saturday morning.

The air raids rained 63 bombs on Iraqi administrative, economic and military centres, causing extensive damage.

According to the pilots involved, the strikes hit the cities of Ba'qubah, 35 kms from Baghdad, Irbil north of Baghdad, 'Ali al-Gharbi and 'Ali ash Sharqi alongside the Basra-Baghdad highway and the townships of (Al-Emadiya), Aqrah, Assadiyah and Meqdadiyah.

The Iraqi air force and air defence units were unable to muster a response.

The pilots said that they witnessed thick smoke rising from the pre-determined targets.

Saturday's attack against Iraqi cities and townships took place in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks Friday against Borujerd, Khorramabad, Mahabad, Saqqez, and Kuhdasht.

Statement on Continuing Retaliatory Attacks

GF261744 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — The Islamic Republic would continue retaliatory attacks on Iraqi towns until Iraqi attacks against Iranian towns are stopped, the War Information Headquarters said in a statement today. It called on the Iraqi people to take refuge in the holy cities of Karbala', An-Najaf, Samara, and Al-Kazimiyah.

It said following Iraqi attacks on Hoveyzeh and Abadan during the past 24 hours, the Islamic forces would continue their attacks on pre-determined targets in Iraq.

It also reminded that Iraqi attacks against seven other cities on Friday were retaliated by air raids against military, economic and administrative targets in eight Iraqi cities and attacks on picked targets in the southern port city of Basra.

IRNA Cites Spokesman on Iraqi Battle Claims

LD262121 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 26, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information HQ. tonight refuted Iraq's claims that it had repulsed an offensive by the Islamic forces of Iran in the Chilat region Saturday night. He said the region, west of (Goaoran) in the Val Fajr-6 operational region, was calm last night.

"By fabricating such lies, Saddam's regime is trying to give morale to its badly defeated and scattered troops," he said.

Iraqi Claim on Downing F-14 Denied

LD251100 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Khatim ol-Anbiya' Feb. 25 IRNA — Military officials here denied an Iraqi claim of having downed an Iranian F-14 and stressed that by spreading such rumours and distorting the war news, the defeated Iraqi regime desperately tried to strengthen the morale of its troops.

Air force officials of the Islamic Republic in the Khaybar operational region announced that on Friday the air force jet fighters of Iran had carried out several operations over Iraqi territory successfully and had returned to their bases safely.

10 Tudeh Party Members Executed 25 Feb

LD251821 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25, IRNA — According to a communique released by the Prosecutor's Office here today, ten high-ranking members of the secret military wing of the defunct Tudeh Party were executed this evening.

The following is a list of the names of the self-confessed spies who were executed:

1 — Captain Bahram 'Afzali

2 — Colonel Hassan Azarfar

3 — Civilian Shahrokh Jahangiri

4 — Civilian Khosrow Lotfi

5 — Army Staffer Muhammad Bahraminejad

6 — Civilian Farzad Jahad

7 — Civilian Gholamreza Khazesi

8 — Army Staffer Abulfazl Bahraminejad

9 — Colonel Hushang 'Attarian

10 — Colonel Bijan Kabiri.

The leaders of the Tudeh Party were first arrested on February 5 last year while they were preparing to escape the country with false identifications.

On April 30, the secretary-general of the party, Nurredin Kianuri, appeared on Iranian television and confessed to spying for the Soviet Union and attempting to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

While confessions of other leading members of the Tudeh were aired on television in the following days, on May [date indistinct] the prosecutor general of the Islamic revolution announced the dissolving of the Tudeh Party and on the same day 18 Soviet diplomats were asked to leave the Islamic Republic for their involvement in "non-diplomatic activities."

The trials of the (?secret) military wing of the Tudeh Party began on December 6 and former Navy Commander 'Afzali was the first to be tried. The trials, chaired by the Islamic judge of the military tribunal, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reyshahri, took more than a month and a total of 101 Tudeh members — mostly militarymen — took the dock.

They were charged with attempts to overthrow the Islamic Republic, possessing [words indistinct], spying and gathering of secret documents from the military and violating a ban on the membership of militarymen in political parties. All expressed repentance for their activities and condemned the Tudeh leadership and the Soviet Union.

Jail sentences from life to less than a year were announced for 87 of them on January 21. Four were acquitted, three of whom had received eight-month prison sentences and were released for the time they spent in detention before their trials.

AFP: UK Businessman Mistakenly Killed

NC260748 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 26 (AFP) — A British businessman was shot dead here today, apparently because he had been mistaken for a French diplomat, British diplomatic sources said.

Reliable sources said the man, who has not been named, was shot in the head.

Sources said the killing appeared to have been a mistake. Before the murder was known, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in Tehran received a phone call which gave the exact time and place of the killing. The caller, who said he belonged to a group he named as "The Organisation of French Socialists," described the murder as "the revolutionary execution of a French diplomat in Tehran."

"This action is a blow directed at French imperialism and a response to the Zionist party of (President Francois) Mitterrand." Mitterrand and French imperialism will understand full well the meaning of our actions," the caller said.